



2011 Annual Report





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Year in Review

It's been a year of change at the Western Center for Historic Preservation. The most notable change occurred in October, when the center was realigned as a branch of the Intermountain Region Cultural Resources Program in order to establish Vanishing Treasures of the North. Like the Vanishing Treasures program of the arid west, the Western Center for Historic Preservation will continue to promote the preservation of traditional craft skills through education and hands-on training opportunities at historic properties. Specializing in western architecture preservation, the center hopes to reach more parks and historic structures in the Intermountain, Pacific West, and Alaska Regions in the near future.

Although the center is now a part of the regional Intermountain Cultural Resources program, we will stay at our current headquarters in Grand Teton National Park, and continue to rehabilitate the White Grass Dude Ranch for use as a seasonal training center. Significant strides have been made at the ranch, as highlighted in this report.

Also in this report is a summary of our training and outreach programs from 2011, and highlights from our successful preservation, restoration, and reconstruction projects. From California to Utah, from the U.S. Forest Service to the Bureau of Reclamation, the Western Center for Historic Preservation had a successful year, reaching more federal employees and historic structures than ever before.

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White Grass Dude Ranch Progress Report

Work continues on the White Grass Dude Ranch rehabilitation project, with several significant accomplishments to report. The WCHP was excited to invite the first volunteer caretaker to live at the ranch for the 2011 summer. The caretaker, Roger Butterbaugh, lived in the Hammond Cabin and assisted the WCHP crews in their rehabilitation work. Roger was the first human resident at White Grass Dude Ranch since it was transferred to the NPS in 1985, marking a huge milestone in the WCHP progress at White Grass Dude Ranch.

During the summer of 2011, work focused on three sleeping cabins: cabins 1157, 1158, and 1160. In 2010, new foundations were poured for these cabins. During the summer of 2011, floors, plumbing, and the front deck were completed on 1157,



Log are replaced at cabin 1158.



The WCHP crew finishing the exterior work on cabin 1157.

and windows, roofs, and all exterior work was completed for 1158 and 1160. During the fall and winter, interior work was completed, allowing all three cabins to be opened to trainees and volunteers next summer. In addition, the ADA ramp on cabin 1155 was completed. Both 1155 and the Hammond Cabin are now fully accessible structures.

In addition to the work accomplished by the WCHP crew, several volunteer groups donated their time and enthusiasm to the project. Three groups of campers from the Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA spent two days each at the ranch, assisting with site-clean-up and chinking on cabins 1157, the Hammond Cabin, and 1158. 2011 was the fifth consecutive year the Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA



White Grass Dude Ranch Progress Report, Cont.

camp has worked at White Grass!

In late July, longtime Grand Teton National Park volunteers from the Michigan Volunteer Corps also returned after a summer hiatus, splitting their efforts between the White Grass Dude Ranch and the Bar BC Dude Ranch. The Michigan Volunteers have been helping the park care for cultural resources for almost 20 years, and the WCHP was thrilled to have their assistance at the White Grass Dude Ranch. The group worked on log replacement on cabin 1158, and happily used the kitchen at the Hammond Cabin as their HQ.



Al Williams oversees volunteers shaping logs at the White Grass Dude Ranch.

The WCHP was also honored to help host the White Grass Dude Ranch reunion in August. Dudes, wranglers, and ranch employees gathered at the White Grass Dude Ranch, celebrating with memories of the old dude ranch.

Overall, the center is excited with the progress being made at the ranch, and hopes to stick to their completion date goal of 2016, the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service.

Former guests and employees of the White Grass Dude Ranch gather on the porch of the rehabilitated Hammond Cabin to share stories and memories from their time on the ranch.





Training and Outreach

In 2011 the WCHP was excited to host trainees and volunteers from around the country. From teaching NPS employees how to repair historic window sash, to introducing Student Conservation Corps students to the basics of preservation, to leading YMCA campers through chinking repair, the WCHP was kept busy with NPS and volunteer involvement.

Training and Development



The WCHP training leaders taught several preservation courses in 2011, focusing their offerings on hands-on learning opportunities. While each project incorporated training, below are some of the highlights from the year.

During the summer, the WCHP hosted three Student Conservation Corps interns for the summer. Courtney Gunderson, Sarah Sanders, and Cassidy Stickney assisted the WCHP crew on their summer projects, learning preservation practices and techniques along the way. Led by Al Williams and the experienced WCHP preservation carpenters, the SCA interns learned about site safety and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation through chainsaw and shop safety demonstrations, log-end replacement workshops, chinking repair instruction, and other hands-on learning opportunities.



Top: Courtney and Sarah shape replacement rafters for Beaver Creek #10 in Grand Teton.

Bottom: Al oversees Cassidy using the chainsaw.

In September, the WCHP participated in a four-part preservation training series organized by the Grand Teton National Park Cultural Resources



Training and Development, Cont.

Division. Attended by Grand Teton employees, partners, and concessioners, the training series covered the most common preservation treatments required in the park. The WCHP taught two of the four sessions, sharing their expertise on log-end replacement techniques and replacing historic chinking. On the latter, WCHP partnered with HistoriCorps at the White Grass Dude Ranch, taking advantage of the extra hands to both teach and accomplish project work on the site.

Finally, Al Williams and Greg Dodson taught a window sash treatment, repair, and replacement course in the WCHP shop in Moose, WY. Attended by six NPS employees from the Grand Teton maintenance staff, the course included how to assess the condition of a sash and determine the appropriate treatment. It also covered the skills required to transfer and reproduce the historic profile of a window for in-kind replacements, and how to repair and re-glaze historic windows.



Top: Al Williams demonstrates safe chainsaw practices at the log-end replacement course.

Bottom: Al Williams helps students measure and shape a new log-end.



Training and Development Photos



Clockwise from top left:

Greg talks to a group of Grand Teton maintenance employees about shop safety and window preservation.

Al gives instruction as a trainee inserts a new log end.

Al shows Sarah Sanders how to shape a log at White Grass Dude Ranch.

SCA intern Cassidy Stickney uses her new skills to alaze a window.



Volunteers

From the beginning, the White Grass Dude Ranch rehabilitation project has relied on assistance from dedicated volunteers from around the country. In 2011, students from the Becket-Chimney Corner's YMCA in Massachusetts, teachers from Wisconsin, and preservation enthusiasts from the Michigan Volunteers program all completed projects at White Grass Dude Ranch, donating their time and skill to the preservation project.

In addition, the WCHP was grateful to host two long-term volunteers in 2011. Roger Butterball was the first White Grass Dude Ranch caretaker, living and working at the ranch through the summer, and Courtney Gunderson lent her architectural skills to the WCHP, assisting with plans for several WCHP projects.



Becket Chimney Corners YMCA campers work at White Grass Dude Ranch.



Michigan volunteers shape logs at the Bar BC Dude Ranch.



Left: The Michigan Volunteers take a break for a photo.



WCHP Projects

In addition to preservation training opportunities, the WCHP provided technical assistance and preservation leadership on several projects in 2011. Spanning three federal agencies, four states, and six historic districts, these projects ultimately helped reduce the maintenance backlog and preserve significant historic structures.

Dewey Gifford House, Capital Reef National Park

In 2010 and 2011 the WCHP crew traveled to Capital Reef National Park to work on the historic Dewey Gifford House. In Phase I, the WCHP repaired the roof and removed the windows for repair in the WCHP shop in Moose, WY. In phase II, the crew scraped and sanded the window jambs, reinstalled the repaired windows, and repaired the exterior stucco.



Repaired windows were reinstalled, and the jambs were scraped and repainted.



The exterior stucco was repaired.



The Dewey Gifford House as seen after the WCHP crew completed preservation work.



WCHP Projects, Cont.

Beaver Creek #10, Grand Teton National Park

At Beaver Creek #10 the WCHP crew stabilized the building, focusing their attention on exterior deficiencies to prevent further deterioration. The WCHP replaced and repaired deteriorated sill logs, log crowns, purlin ends, roof joists, and sections of damaged board and batten siding. They also repaired chinking with a historic mortar mix, and performed several miscellaneous tasks to better seal the building from pests.



The rafter tails were replaced with Dutchman repairs, which required new logs to be shaped and inserted in place of the deteriorated logs.



The Beaver Creek historic district is located in Grand Teton National Park at the base of the Teton Mountains.



Rafter tails prior to painting.



WCHP Projects, Cont.

Brinkerhoff Lodge, Grand Teton National Park

Preservation maintenance on the Brinkerhoff Lodge in Grand Teton National Park is ongoing. In 2011, WCHP replaced deteriorated log-ends on the Lodge, and cleaned and restained the Lodge and Caretaker's Cabin. In addition, the WCHP crews patched and replaced damaged siding, and refinished and refit several doors. They also replaced damaged porch joists.



The lodge was cleaned prior to restaining.



Deteriorated log ends were replaced in-kind.



The Brinkerhoff Lodge after the WCHP crew completed preservation work.



WCHP Projects, Cont.

Bryan Flats Guard Station, USFS

During the summer of 2011, a crew from WCHP traveled south to the Bryan Flats Guard Station, one of the oldest remaining guard stations on the forest. The WCHP corrected structural deficiencies in the foundation, and replaced deteriorated logs. In 2012, the WCHP will return to the site to complete chinking on the exterior of the cabin.



The Bryan Flats Guard Station is one of the oldest guard stations on the forest.



The crew shaped the replacement log-ends to match the existing square notching.



Several sill logs were replaced, then repainted to match the existing colors.



WCHP Projects, Cont.

Hoover Dam World War II Bunker, Bureau of Reclamation

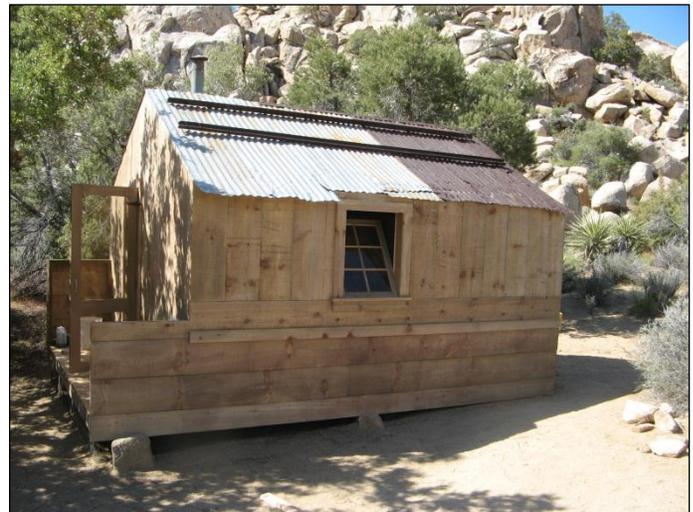
The Hoover Dam World War II Bunker project is a multi-year project to restore the stone bunker above Hoover Dam. Phase I and II, completed in 2010 and 2011 respectively, included initial site visits and the composition of a Historic Structures Report. Completed in partnership with the NPS Intermountain Regional Office, the HSR will guide preservation work planned for 2012.



The bunker overlooks Hoover Dam. Preservation work will begin in 2012.

McHaney Cabin, Joshua Tree National Park

During the McHaney Cabin project the WCHP crew, assisted by Joshua Tree employees, reconstructed an historically significant cabin in Joshua Tree National Park. Despite the fact that the cabin had collapsed, the WCHP preservation crew was able to salvage material from the original cabin for the reconstruction.



The WCHP was able to salvage the original floor and roof material from the collapsed cabin.